

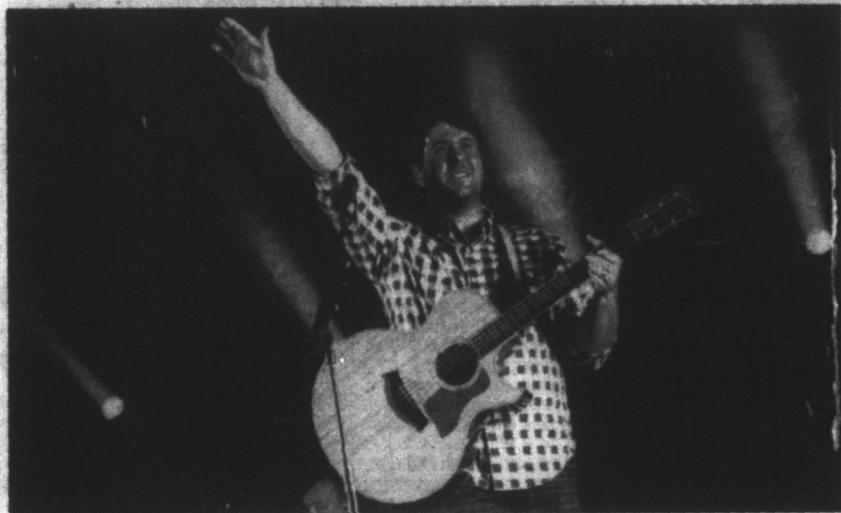
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No. 33

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877



CHRIS ALBRITTON

Mississippi Baptist Youth Night



BRYANT BUSH

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Worship and praise once again filled Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson on July 25 as Mississippi Baptist Youth Night — the largest annual gathering of Mississippi Baptists anywhere in the state — wrapped up another successful summer of youth activities sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

"I was pleased with the turnout and, as always, pleased with the conduct of our young people in the eyes of the unsaved who were among us that evening," said Don Lum, lead organizer for the event and MBCB evangelism director. "Attendance was about 7,500, which is on par with Youth Night attendance in recent years, but I

see YOUTH on p. 5

Open letter calls for 'destruction' of ISIS

WASHINGTON (BP) — Russell D. Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, has joined a group of signatories from across the religious and political spectrum in a letter unveiled Aug. 11 that commends U.S. President Barack Obama's authorization of airstrikes on ISIS terrorists — but contends the terrorists' attacks on religious minorities require more.

The United States and the international community should do what is needed, the letter says, to enable local forces to protect Christians, Yazidis, and others in the face of a purge by the Islamic

State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

"No options that are consistent with the principles of just war doctrine should be off the table," the letter states. "We further believe that the United States' goal must be more comprehensive than simply clamping a short-term lid on the boiling violence that is threatening so many innocents in ISIS/ISIL's path."

"Nothing short of the destruction of ISIS/ISIL as a fighting force will provide long-term protection of victims."

The plea came as the United States reportedly weighs whether

to take additional steps beyond the president's Aug. 7 authorization, which approved humanitarian aid as well as the airstrikes being carried out by fighter jets and drones.

Moore said in an Aug. 12 written statement he stands "in solidarity with men and women across the political spectrum to urge the U.S. government to help put an end to this grievous injustice in Iraq. Our authorities should use the sword of the state to promote justice and the protection of innocent people."

see ISIS on p. 4

Death threats shadow Christian pastor in Iranian confinement

TEHRAN, Iran (BP) — Saeed Abedini, the American pastor imprisoned in Iran for his Christian faith, has received death threats from Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorists being held in the same prison, the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) reported on Aug. 13.



ABEDINI

"This is an extremely dangerous development that puts Pastor Saeed's life at grave risk," ACLJ chief counsel Jay Sekulow said. "Not only is Pastor Saeed facing threats from Iranian militants who have imprisoned him because of his Christian faith, he now faces new and perhaps even more dangerous threats from Iraqi ISIS prisoners who want to murder Pastor Saeed because of his faith."

"We call on President Obama and Secretary [of State John] Kerry to intervene immediately to secure Pastor Saeed's release and to ensure that he is protected during this transfer to freedom. Pastor Saeed, who is approaching his second year of imprisonment in Iran, must be returned to his family without delay."

Abedini told family members that he is being held in the same ward of Rajai Shahr Prison as members of ISIS, the jihadist group that has murdered Christians and other religious minorities in its conquest of an area spanning Iraq and Syria.

Although Abedini is in a separate section of the ward, other prisoners have told him that the ISIS inmates intend to murder him for his Christian faith, ACLJ reported.

Abedini said he no longer leaves his cell for a brief, daily exercise period in the prison yard because he fears for his safety. When ISIS members enter Abedini's section of the ward on their return from the prison yard, he hides in his cell and relies on fellow inmates to protect him, according to ACLJ.

Abedini's wife Naghmeh, who lives in Idaho with their two young children, requested prayer in a Facebook post. "Saeed's mom was able to visit him today (behind a glass window)," Naghmeh Abedini wrote. "There

are ISIS terrorists in Saeed's ward now, which is causing new threats for Saeed as a Christian convert and pastor."

"This is hard to hear as his wife especially with all that is happening in Iraq. I am believing and trusting in Jesus. He is in control. Please continue to pray for Saeed's safety and release."

Abedini's children, Jacob and Rebekka, have made a video asking Obama to help secure their father's release. Fox News reported on the video last week.

Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, requested prayer for Abedini in an Aug. 13 Facebook post, noting, "Saeed...cannot trust the guards or other prisoners. God alone can protect him."

Abedini, a U.S. citizen of Iranian descent, was sentenced in early 2013 to eight years in prison for his involvement in Iran's house church movement. Abedini used to live in Iran and was a leader of house churches before moving to America in 2005.

He was arrested almost two years ago while on a trip to build an orphanage in the city of Rasht. Though the Iranian constitution officially recognizes Christianity as a minority religion, Christian converts from Islam have suffered brutal persecution at the hands of Muslim authorities.

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

High tech gossip

Dr. James Dobson, with *Focus on the Family*, pleads for our action. An organization has been granted a Federal Hearing by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in Washington, D.C. Their petition, #2493, would ultimately pave the way to stop the reading of the gospel of our Lord and Savior on the airwaves of America. They got 287,000 signatures to back their stand! If this attempt is successful, all Sunday worship services being broadcast on the radio or by television will be stopped. This group is also campaigning to remove all Christmas programs and Christmas carols from public schools! You, as a Christian, can help! We are praying for at least one million signatures.

This would defeat their effort and show that there are many Christians alive, well, and concerned about our country. As Christians, we must unite on this. Please don't take this lightly. We ignored one lady once and lost prayer in our schools and in offices across the nation. Please stand up for your religious freedom and let your voice be heard. Together we can make a difference in our country while creating an opportunity for the lost to know the Lord.

Please press "forward," clean up the message, and forward this to everyone you think should read this. Now, please sign your name at the bottom. Don't delete any other names, just go to the next number and type your name. Please do not sign jointly, such as Mr. & Mrs. each person should sign his/her own name.

Apparently, many thousands of people have received this breathless e-mail plea over the past several years, if not the last several months. Problem is, it's not true.

The urban legend about petition 2493 has circulated with different types of pleas and "calls for action" for many years," according to a statement on Focus on the Family's official web site. "In fact, Focus on the Family has recently

learned of a version of the rumor that said that Dr. Dobson himself was asking for people to respond to the e-mail by signing a petition and circulating it to their friends and family. Please be assured that this is not true; Dr. Dobson did not initiate an e-mail petition."

Dobson stepped down in 2009 as chairman of the board of Focus on the Family, but has remained active in the Colorado Springs-based ministry.

This is simply the old Madalyn Murray O'Hair petition unfortunately making the rounds again, this time updated with James Dobson's name and zipped across the country at the effortless speed of e-mail. Christians, of all people, should not engage in such wasteful and ineffective activities as high tech gossip — and that's exactly what this is.

"Sadly, some Christians have embraced urban legends, developing a whole catalog of fables that are often used as affirmation of our faith in the Bible or to warn of a threat against religious liberties. The problem is that by uncritically forwarding some of these e-mails, we often violate the command against bearing false witness, and we hurt the church's credibility when we then try to preach a Gospel of truth," said Focus on the Family senior online editor Greg Hartman, in Focus on the Family magazine.

"Christians should not rush to believe, much less repeat, unsubstantiated gossip. After all, it is the glory of kings to search out a matter (Proverbs 25:2). As we damage our credibility, so do we damage our ability to witness to the ultimate truth of the Gospel.

"E-mail is a powerful tool, but its ability to quickly, widely, and cheaply disseminate information is only as helpful as the information being spread. As stewards of truth for the rest of the world, Christians need to be judicious in their use of the forwarding button," Hartman said.

That's good advice. In the future, let's all check out gossip before we pass it along as fact.

INTERNET RUMORS

To investigate Internet rumors, first go to the web site of the individual or organization that is mentioned in the e-mail, such as James Dobson and Focus on the Family. The web sites of these individuals and organizations often have special sections devoted to rumors. Secondly, a number of web sites exist for the purpose of dispelling Internet rumors and hoaxes, including www.snopes.com and www.truthorfiction.com. (Note: The mention of particular web sites not controlled by The Baptist Record or the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board does not imply endorsement. Caution is recommended.)

Suicide: What not to say

When news broke that legendary comedian and actor Robin Williams had died of an apparent suicide, people were saddened that someone who had brought so much joy to the lives of others had taken his own life.

Immediately some people began to speculate about his ongoing battle with alcohol addiction and depression as the cause of his desperate act. Others began to comfort themselves with the thought that Williams was now at peace from such battles. A few observed that suicide is the ultimate selfish act.

There is little doubt that suicide is a fierce goodbye. It is a final and ultimate way an individual seeks to end their suffering and struggle. When something like this happens, whether to a celebrity or a fellow church member, plenty of Christians are all too ready to comment.

The most prominent reactions I have observed from Christians seem either to say that the individual is now at peace or to say something about the unpardonable sin. Obviously, these two reactions are polar opposites yet both come from Christians, so what should we make of news like this?

First, we need to be cautious about making absolute pronouncements about a specific individual's eternal destiny. Frankly, we are not in a position to know such a thing with certainty.

Secondly, it is not consistent with a Christian worldview or biblical truth to suggest that someone who has taken their own life "is no longer suffering." Frankly, we do not know that.

Indeed, the Bible teaches that only those who are in a relationship with Christ are in a place of joy after their death. All others are in a place of torment, but because we do not know with certainty the nature of a specific individual's relationship with Christ, it is neither helpful nor accurate to make statements about who is or who is not suffering any longer.

For the person who dies apart from Christ, the tragic reality is that their suffering has just begun.

Thirdly, I have occasionally seen Christians insinuate that suicide is not possible for a true follower of Christ. Such a view denies the reality of our fallen nature, the power of sin, and the devastating effect of mental illness.

No doubt Christ is our deliverer, but that deliverance is not complete and total



Guest opinion

with Rob Pochek

until we are in His presence. The battle with depression and mental illness is not unlike any other human struggles. The enemy attacks us at our weakest and most vulnerable spot, and occasionally the battle with mental illness and depression is lost. Sadly, sometimes that loss is final.

Finally, some Christians believe that suicide is the ultimate selfish act and it may be, but saying so is not very helpful to the family members who are left to grieve the loss of their loved one. In fact, when we say suicide is a selfish act we are in a sense acting as if people exist in a spiritual vacuum. In reality, the opposite is true. People who are struggling with the desire to end their life are in a spiritual battle.

Jesus said that the devil has come to "steal, kill, and destroy." While the individual is responsible for choices he or she makes, let us not fall into the trap of acting as if we do not have an enemy who is seeking to destroy as many lives as he can.

When a person commits suicide, it is the ultimate win for the enemy. He has successfully duped another person into believing that his way of death and destruction is best.

When Robin Williams took his own life, the enemy rejoiced and a nation mourned. As Christians, let us be gracious before a watching (and hurting) world. Let us not make bold pronouncements about suffering. Let us not make sweeping generalizations about suicide.

Let us be clear that sadness and sorrow at the loss of one made in the image of God is right. Let us be clear that mourning and grieving the loss of a husband and father is right.

Let us be clear that, except for the grace of God, there go I.

Pochek is senior pastor of Raleigh Road Church in Wilson, N.C. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for length, clarity, and style.

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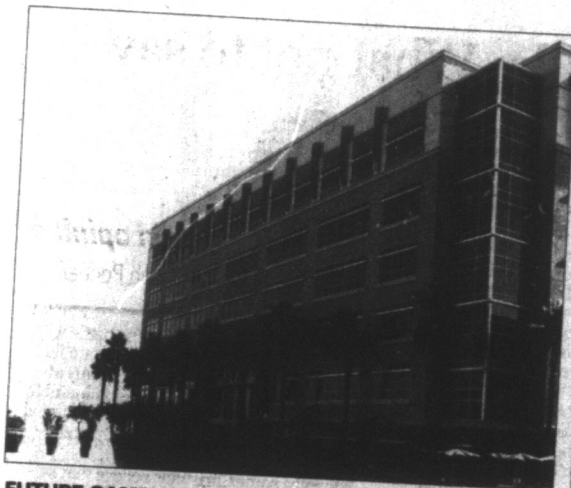
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FUTURE CAMPUS — Golden Gate Seminary has purchased a six-story building in the Los Angeles area to anchor its new campus by the summer of 2016. (BP photo)

Golden Gate Seminary debuts new location

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP and local reports) — Golden Gate Seminary has signed a purchase agreement for a new primary campus site in Southern California, east of Los Angeles near the Ontario International Airport.

In announcing the formal purchase and sale agreement (PSA) to the seminary community, Jeff Iorg, Golden Gate president, said, "We have chosen a facility to meet the needs of students in the 21st century. We will soon have a high-quality educational delivery center with excellent facilities for fulfilling our mission of shaping leaders in the future."

The purchase price for the new campus was not announced. According to the seminary's web site, a company called North Coast Land Holdings will purchase the current campus in Mill Valley (Marin County) across the bay from San Francisco.

The new site includes a six-story building, an adjacent ready-to-build lot, and more than 700 parking places in the city of Ontario, part of Southern California's Inland Empire region. The building was constructed in 2009 and has remained vacant due to the economic downturn.

The building's exterior is finished and all mechanical systems have been installed, but its interior is unfinished. The adjacent lot is already legally titled for a future building.

The six-story building encompasses approximately 153,000 square feet, while a future building, at 75,000 square feet, can be constructed for such uses as a chapel, library, offices, or classrooms.

By comparison, the seminary's core campus buildings in Mill Valley, Calif., are only 121,000 square feet. Thus, the new Southern California building is about 20% larger than the seminary's current facilities, with room on the new

site to nearly double the size of the current facilities.

Iorg also announced that the seminary will ask that a new name, Gateway Seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention, be approved by the convention.

"Our new campus will be very different than our former campus. It is a much more efficient use of space and resources," Iorg said. "A seminary for the 21st century needs space for students, faculty, library, worship and administration. We will soon have state-of-the-art facilities for all these purposes, plus the most advanced educational technology available."

The seminary currently is finalizing plans to secure use permits, finish the building's interior, and prepare for relocation by June 2016. "We have a reasonable timetable for this project and will be ready to move within the two-year window allotted for our transition," Iorg said.

Regarding the upcoming request for a name change, Iorg acknowledged the strength of the seminary's current name but indicated the seminary's board of trustees had determined requesting the new name ultimately is the best course of action.

"The name Golden Gate Seminary connects us with a beautiful bridge and rich heritage in the San Francisco Bay Area. Under that name, we have sent more than 8,000 graduates across America and around the world."

"Our current name has served us well and helped define our identity. We have a growing sense, however, that bearing a name so closely associated with an iconic landmark won't serve us as well when our primary campus is in the Inland Empire east of Los Angeles. The new name connects to our heritage, frees us from geographic designations, allows for developing a more global identity, and acknowledges our Baptist distinctive."

LifeWay studies future of Nashville property

NASHVILLE (BP) — LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention is exploring opportunities to better utilize its downtown Nashville corporate offices, which could mean the sale of some or all of the 14.5-acre property, LifeWay President and CEO Thom Rainer said in a letter to the organization's staff.

LifeWay is working with a consulting firm to study the advantages and disadvantages of a possible sale, said Rainer. About 1,100 of LifeWay's employees work in the downtown corporate offices. The organization also oversees 186 stores and 4,300 employees in 29 states.

Acknowledging that LifeWay has been located in the Music City for more than 120 years, Rainer cited demand for property in the downtown area and fewer employees now working at its corporate offices as reasons for studying a possible sale.

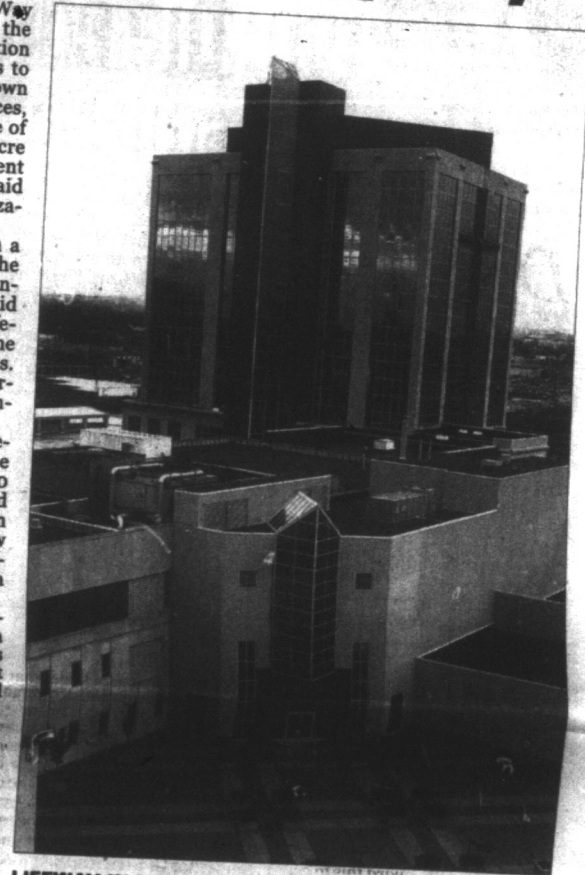
"...It would be poor stewardship for the organization not to explore the possibilities this situation could present for our ministry," Rainer said in the Aug. 1 letter.

LifeWay could sell only a portion of its property or it could sell all of its downtown campus and move outside the city, either into existing facilities or begin new construction, Rainer said. He described the possibility of moving outside of middle Tennessee as "remote."

"...My preference is that we stay in downtown Nashville," Rainer said, noting the study is in its "very beginning stages."

"I assure you absolutely no decisions have been made, other than our commitment to use all the resources the Lord has provided us to make the maximum impact on churches and the kingdom, now and in the future," he said.

In the letter, Rainer addressed changes in the publishing industry and why more of LifeWay's employees now work outside of Nashville than at its corporate offices. "Our needs have changed. We no longer print and package our resources on the first floor of the Operations Building and



LIFEWAY IN NASHVILLE

then put them on a conveyor belt running under Broadway to the U.S. Post Office.

That post office building is now an art center, our printing is done all over the country, our assembly and shipping is centered in new facilities in Lebanon, [Tn.], and [the Operations Building] sits mostly empty. We have been unable to even lease the space."

While LifeWay leases unused office space in its Frost Building along with the adjacent parking lot, Rainer said, hundreds of offices on its campus remain vacant. LifeWay spokesman Marty King estimated nearly one third of the facility is vacant or leased.

King declined to speculate about the value of the prop-

erty. The Tennessean newspaper estimated the value at "more than \$80 million." He noted one Nashville developer called the property "a homerun site."

Rainer said, "We have a lot of history here, and a lot invested in our property... But, times change. The needs of our customers change. So, LifeWay changes."

It could take several months or longer before a recommendation is made to LifeWay's trustees, Rainer noted. "But, we might decide not to do anything at this time. There are so many factors to consider, we simply don't know what the final outcome will be or even what some of the alternatives might be."

"We have a lot of history here, and a lot invested in our property... But, times change. The needs of our customers change. So, LifeWay changes."

Thom Rainer

LifeWay President and CEO

Back during the summer I was at a meeting in a large city where I quickly noticed that many of the people rode bicycles. They were not riding bicycles for recreation or exercise but rather to get from one place to another, to work and back home, hundreds of people, riding in lanes in the city that were prepared just for them. In that city they also provided special heavy duty posts with attachments so you could lock your bicycle to it and there it would be safe and secure. One evening as I walked back to my room where I was staying, I saw a really nice looking bicycle locked to one of those posts. I paused to look at it because I could tell it was an expensive bicycle with all the bells and whistles and quality stuff that an experienced bike rider would probably have. Then I went on.

The next morning I was out for an early morning brisk walk and I passed by the same bicycle parked out there on the side of the street. I stopped again, not just to admire the bike this time, but to examine the fact that most of it was gone. While the strong locks provided some protection and kept the thieves from picking it up and taking the whole thing, during the night someone had stripped the bicycle of everything but the frame. I mean they had taken everything: tires, gone; chain, gone; hand brakes, gone; front and back wheels, gone; everything, gone. All that was left behind was the skeleton of a bicycle, everything else had been stripped, robbed, and the bicycle ruined. Though I had no idea whose bicycle it was or who the robbers were that had stripped and

ruined it, I just hated for somebody that it happened. I walked on down the street knowing that there was not much I could do, in fact nothing, to replace all the missing parts or fix it. I went on walking.

Soon, I was struck by the fact that that shell of a bike is not unlike many people I have seen, people I have known, people who had it all, gifted, bright, successful, so much to give and such potential to bless, and then tragedy strikes. Things happen in their lives, wrong decisions, temptations, and the thief himself, Satan, comes to do his work. In John 10:10 Jesus describes the work of the devil as he is a thief who comes and robs. He will steal anything from anybody, strip you of innocence, he will ruin your character, your relationships, your health, your family. There are no boundaries that he will

not cross in order to take one of God's children and wreck and ruin them.

One of the celebrated heroes of the Bible is also one of the saddest characters in Scripture. His name is Samson. He was chosen of God, empowered by God, used by God, but then he began to play games with the very gifts that God had given him. His work for the Lord that had become legendary began to be just a cute little thing that he could do as he wanted, he thought. Soon, all that had appeared to be so magnificent was robbed and all of the glamour and glory that he had attained was stripped away and he was ruined, taken captive by the enemies that he had so often overcome. He now was weak, blinded. Grinding at the mill, the Scripture says they made sport of him (Judg. 16:25), his magnificent life and

incredible power now a joke. A shell of a man that once had walked so tall and strong for God.

None of us need to be proud or boastful or think that that could never be me, for Satan as a roaring lion goes around seeking who he may devour and he would love nothing more than to have you or me. Thanks be to God that we do have a Savior who does not just meet us one time and remove our sin debt, but He stays with us and fills us with His power and His love and by His grace we can walk with Him and rely on Him and be filled by Him whatever we may be going through. Maybe you feel as though you've been stripped and ruined. I would be remiss if I did not point out that God Himself wanted to and waited to use Samson again. In the close of his life, Samson cries out to God and God hears him, restored him to be used in one last glorious moment of life and He can restore you also.

First John is a marvelous book that opens in Chapter 1 telling us that if we have sinned we have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, who stands before the Father on our behalf and becomes our attorney. Caring for us he wants us to be restored and the Bible says that, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). You do not have to remain stripped and ruined. You can be restored, blessed and be a blessing once again.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

Stripped and Almost Ruined



ISIS

cont. from p. 1

He also called for prayer by followers of Christ. "At the same time, I would ask Christians to pray for our brothers and sisters in Iraq. As we do, let's remember that we pray in power."

In addition to calling for the United States to increase airstrikes against ISIS, the signers urge the American government to supply air support as well as weapons and intelligence for the Kurds and others fighting the Islamic militants.

"We are hopeful that local forces, with adequate support and assistance from the U.S. and the international community, can defeat ISIS/ISIL," the letter says.

Expanded humanitarian assistance also is needed, the signers write. "Local churches and aid agencies are overwhelmed, and we have grave concerns about how these victims of violent religious persecution will be cared for this winter. The U.S. can and should take the lead in providing food, water, medicine, and other essential supplies."

The letter and the list of signers are available at <http://iraqrescue.org/>.

The International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention in Richmond, Va., and Baptist Global Response (BGR), an IMB ministry partner, have asked Southern Baptists to help provide humanitarian relief to Iraqi refugees. BGR representatives are seeking to aid the reportedly 200,000 internally displaced Iraqis who have left their homes in the face of the ISIS threat.

College News

► **William Carey University** will hold a dedication ceremony for the newly-finished Caroline and Ray Bass Memorial Chapel on Wednesday, August 27, 9:30 a.m. Construction of the 2,630-square-foot chapel started in May 2013 and was completed in early 2014. The chapel will hold approximately 100 people for various functions, such as small religious services. It will be open daily for use by students, faculty and staff for meditation and prayer. The chapel was consecrated on July 9 by Tommy King, president of WCU. During the consecration service, communion was administered to university personnel and brief remarks were made on the significance of the building, the first chapel on the WCU campus.

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UES.

CJJACQZLQNCQ VZIC: QCICO

Clue: B = M

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Matthew 6:34

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004. © 2005

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

August 21, 2014

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services

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So Peter got out of the boat
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Matthew 14:23

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on Friday and concluding with lunch on Saturday.

We want you! If you haven't been in a while or have been
invited, but never come - this is the time! We will hear
wonderful stories from your children on the field, and we will
bring them before the Lord in prayer.

Come, be a part of something BIG! We look forward to
seeing you there!

MMF Mississippi Missionary Fellowship

SEPTEMBER 20, 2014

8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Current missionaries on Stateside, Retired missionaries, Former
missionaries you are invited to a reunion of Mississippi
missionary fellowship!

Light breakfast and a lunch are provided.

Come enjoy the precious time with one another and hear
reports from the field, drenched in prayer. If you know of
someone who has not connected yet, please invite them.

JANUARY BIBLE STUDY PREVIEW CLINIC DEUTERONOMY A CHALLENGE FOR A NEW GENERATION

SEPTEMBER 8, 2014

SKYROOM, 4TH FLOOR

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD JACKSON

REGISTRATION: 8:30 - 9 a.m.

PREVIEW STUDY: 9 a.m. - noon



Dr. Wayne VanHorn has served as pastor or
interim pastor in Mississippi, Alabama, and
Louisiana. He has taught at New Orleans Baptist
Theological Seminary, William Carey University,
and currently teaches at Mississippi College,
where he also serves as Dean of the School of
Christian Studies and the Arts. Dr. VanHorn and
his wife Terri have three children and four
grandchildren. His major discipline of study is in
Hebrew and the Old Testament.

**CONTACT THE SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPT. OF THE MBCB
FOR MORE INFORMATION AT**

1-800-748-1651, ext. 291, or 601-292-3291.

Is Your Bible Study for Preschoolers and Children Healthy?

Live Training Web Casts

CHILDREN'S Leadership Thursday, September 18

PRESCHOOL Leadership Thursday, November 13

6:30-8:00 PM

Hosted and lead by Mississippi Sunday School Leaders
along with a panel of local ministry leaders AND

September 18: Bill Emeott, Lead Kids Ministry Specialist, LifeWay Christian Resources
November 13: Clara Mae Van Brink, Preschool Ministry Speaker, Canton, Georgia

Discussions will focus on how to prepare and teach so that
kids apply the Bible to their everyday lives.

Join with us at no cost from wherever you are on your computer/laptop,
phone, tablet, iPod.

Connect with us on September 18 and November 13 at
www.mbc.org/ssleadertraining

A Ministry of the Cooperative Program
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Sunday School Department P O Box 530, Jackson MS 39205
1-800-748-1651 or 601-668-3806, ext. 291



LEARN! PLAN! DO SOMETHING NEW!

2014 RETIREMENT PLANNING SEMINARS
1 HOUR PRESENTATION
30 MINUTE DISCUSSIONS

SEPTEMBER 9

First Baptist Church Belzonia
Humphreys Association at 6:30

SEPTEMBER 11

Carroll-Montgomery Association office at 6:30

SEPTEMBER 16

Calvary Baptist Church, Pinola Association at 6:30

SEPTEMBER 30

Jasper Association office at 6:30

PRESENTED BY CHRIS ELKINS, GUIDESTONE FINANCIAL RESOURCES

For more information, call Robin Nichols,
MBCB/GuideStone Rep., 601-292-3226.



The Mississippi Baptist Young Musicians Honor Choir Weekend
April 11-12, 2015 - Guest Choral Conductor: Susan Messer
Clary Baptist Church, Florence MS

No Audition Fee - Submit audition form & video audition beginning
August 1, 2014

Upon acceptance Choir Member cost for weekend is \$70 (covers member
meals, snacks, music, listening CD, Weekend DVD, concert polo shirt)

For 2015 audition form:

http://www.mbc.org/church_growth/cm/honor_choir.aspx

Contact: Wyndy South, 601-292-3272 locally or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 272
statewide, E-mail: wsouth@mbcb.org

Ministers' Wives Conference

OCTOBER 27, 2014 | FBC JACKSON 5TH FLOOR

Guest Speaker:
Trudy Cathy Smith

1:30 p.m.

Registration

FBC Jackson - 5th Floor Main Building

Pre-registration is encouraged so that we may better prepare.

For more information contact the Pastor/Leadership Development
Dept. at the MBCB:

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST SINGING CHURCHWOMEN RETREAT

Lake Tiak-O'Khata
Louisville, Miss.
September 12-13, 2014

Registration begins at 4:30 p.m.

Retreat ends with a 6 p.m. concert at
First Baptist Church, Starkville

Cost \$85
One night's lodging
(Double occupancy) and three
meals

For more information contact the Church
Music Department of the MBCB at
800-748-1651, ext. 267, or
601-292-3267.

Pray t' day for...

August 22 - September 4, 2014

"No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us." 1 John 4:12

Pray for: **Karen Brown**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through nursing.

Pray for: **Matthew Burks**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Pamela Carlton**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through theological education, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Rebekah Clark**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through youth evangelism.

Pray for: **Richard & Wanda Clark**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **John & Claudia Brown**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Donna & Donald Brown**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church/home outreach & church planting.

Pray for: **Guy & Cindy DeMars**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through hospitality coordination & church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Thomas & Kerri Dewett**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Alvin & Mary Doyle**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through member care.

Pray for: **Aaron & Tiffany Epps**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Robert & Margaret Fortenberry**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Gloria Glaze**, missionaries ministering to Deaf Peoples through media consultation & media promotion.

Pray for: **Clarence Frank Harrison & Phoebe**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples.

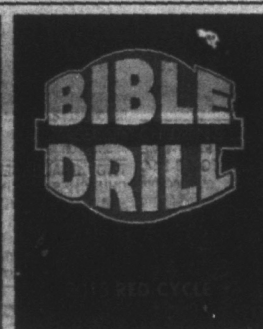
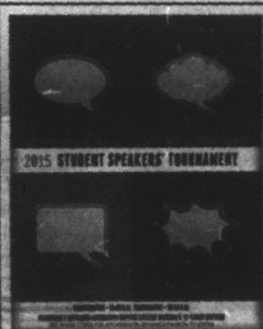
The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

Last year, 1225 students from our Mississippi College campuses were involved in significant missions experiences. Mississippi had 145 Summer Missionaries serving in North America and the world. There are more than 30 local Baptist Student Union programs of ministry, and 22 BSU centers in the State. Christmas in China is a big event each year for our students, and to date there have been over 2,000 students involved. Nine hundred of them were from Mississippi.

Your Cooperative Program monies support these mission endeavors and make it possible for these students to be the hands and feet of Jesus.



For more information contact the Stewardship/CP Promotion Dept. at 800-748-1651, ext. 347.



BIBLE DRILL / YOUTH SPEAKERS' TOURNAMENT WORKSHOP
Monday, September 15, 2014

West Laurel Baptist Church
1400 West 5th Street, Laurel

For more information contact:
Allan Nix at 601-649-8114

Sponsored by the Discipleship/Family Ministry
Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
800-748-1651, ext. 284, or 601-292-3284.

HOUSE TOPS

YOUTH

cont. from p. 1

won't be happy until the Coliseum is filled."

As the oval-shaped facility is configured for Youth Night, that would mean a total attendance of about 8,500.

"Pastors and youth leaders should be sure to put Youth Night on the church calendar every year," Lum said. "It's the perfect opportunity for Baptist young people to be with other Christians who are their age, with the confidence that they are not alone in facing the pressures of their world. There are many thousands of young people just like them across the state, and Youth Night is their special time to get together."

Lum added that Youth Night is also a powerful evangelism tool with unsaved young people who are invited to ride along with Christian friends to the event.

"You don't have to know the speakers. You don't have to be familiar with the worship leaders. You know it's going to be good for your young people, and you need to get them there every year," he said.

The featured speaker this year was Bryant Bush, evangelist and artist from Atlanta, Ga. Worship leader was Christ Albritton and his band, known as The Gathering, from Temple Church in Ruston, La.

A mission offering was taken, and because all expenses of Youth Night are covered by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program, 100% of the mission offering will be avail-

able to Mississippi Baptist churches to help fund youth mission projects.

For more information on Youth Night or the mission offering, contact Lum at (601) 292-3278 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 278. E-mail: dlum@mbcb.org.

"I want to thank the many adult volunteers who counseled young people after they made a decision for Christ at Youth Night, and also the staff of Mississippi Coliseum. We could not have Youth Night without the event's planning committee, which was chaired this year by Mike Brister, working so hard behind the scenes, and I want to thank them," Lum said.

In addition to Brister, of Temple Church in Hattiesburg, the 2014 Mississippi Baptist Youth Night Committee included:

"Pastors and youth leaders should be sure to put Youth Night on the church calendar every year. It's the perfect opportunity for Baptist young people to be with other Christians who are their age, with the confidence that they are not alone in facing the pressures of their world."

Don Lum

MBCB evangelism director

■ Danny Forrest of First Church, Richton.
■ Jason Holmes of First Church in Brookhaven.
■ Chris Layton of DeSoto Hills Church in Southaven.
■ Brandon Lewis of First Church in Oxford.
■ Alan Loving of First Church in Madison.
■ J.D. Simpson of First Priority in Hattiesburg.

■ Brad Van Cleave of First Church in Magee.
■ Trey Waldrop of First Church in Summit.
■ Casey Williams of First Church in Jackson.
■ Austin Bahm of Brandon Church in Brandon.
Mississippi Baptist Youth Night 2015 will be held July 24 at Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

MS POSITIONS

WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH, WOODVILLE, MS, IS SEEKING A PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC AND A PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH OR A FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC AND YOUTH. Send resumes to PO Box 1256, Woodville, MS 39669.

PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER NEEDED AT NEW LIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH. Please send resumes to: Youth Minister Search Committee, 629 Forest Trail, Brookhaven, MS 39601.

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH IN ECRU, MS IS PRAYING FOR A BROVOCATIONAL WORSHIP PASTOR. If interested, send resume to 65 Friendship Road, Ecu, MS 38841, or email to Jonathan.baker@ecru.com.

STAR BAPTIST CHURCH, RANKIN COUNTY, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME MINISTRY ASSISTANT TO BEGIN 9-1-14. Must have basic knowledge of accounts payable and general ledger and be proficient in word and power point. Will be cross trained in other duties. Applications are available at starbaptistchurch.org or you may call 601-845-2736.

MEADOWVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, STARKVILLE, MS, IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC AND EDUCATION. Please mail resumes to Meadowview Baptist Church, Attn: Music Search Committee, 300 Linden Circle, Starkville, MS 39759.

LIBERTY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH IN POPE, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME STUDENT MINISTER. Please send resumes and questions to stacey.bowden@yahoo.com.

GRIFFITH MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH, LOCATED AT 5275 TERRY ROAD IN SOUTH JACKSON, IS CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR A FULL TIME MINISTRY ASSISTANT/SECRETARY. For the job description and more information, go to www.griffithmemorial.com and click on the job information link.

TWO SMALL, CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI CHURCHES LOOKING FOR A PASTOR TO SERVE BOTH CHURCHES. Two Sunday morning services & one Wednesday night service per week. Please send resume to P.O. Box 206, Goodman, MS 39079 or email resume to mspopecc@gmail.com.

JONES COUNTY BIBLE CONFERENCE

AUGUST 24-26 | SALEM HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH | LAUREL, MS

SPEAKERS

DR. JOHN SULLIVAN

Executive Director-Treasurer
Florida Baptist Convention

DR. JIM SHADDIX

Pastor for Teaching and Training
The Church at Brook Hills
Birmingham, Alabama

DR. STEVEN SMITH

Vice President
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Ft. Worth, Texas

DR. ROBERT SMITH

Professor of Divinity at Beeson Divinity School
Samford University
Birmingham, Alabama

SCHEDULE

AUG. 24

10:15 a.m. Jim Shaddix
6:00 p.m. Jim Shaddix
7:00 p.m. John Sullivan

AUG. 25

12:00 p.m. John Sullivan
6:30 p.m. Steven Smith

AUG. 26

12:00 p.m. John Sullivan
6:30 p.m. Robert Smith

MIDDAY SERVICES

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. (Lunch provided)

601-763-7571 | WWW.SALEMHEIGHTS.ORG

CLASSIFIEDS

MECK BAPTIST IS LOOKING FOR A WORSHIP LEADER who can lead and encourage others to give praise and honor to God, combining modern and traditional music. We have several packages to offer including housing. Located in the Smith Lake Area of Alabama; praying God will lead you here. www.meckbc.com meckbaptist@aol.net

MISSISSIPPI REPRESENTATIVE FOR MURPHY CHOIR ROBES AND APPAREL. Call (662) 801-0977, or email mrgb@ms.metrocast.net

WEEKEND/BALLGAME GUEST HOUSE RENTAL IN OXFORD. 900 square feet, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, kitchen, living/dining area. 2 night minimum. No smoking, alcohol or pets. Call (662) 801-0977, or email mrgb@ms.metrocast.net

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ARLINGTON, TEXAS. For more details visit www.fbca.org apmw or email erica.taylor@fbca.org

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC. OLD BIBLES REBOUND. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call 662-453-7424 or fax us at 662-455-6743.

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Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27

Clinton, MS 39060-0027

(601) 922-2242

www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals seek to pay tribute to others through this practice. Memorials, obituaries, and hospital notices. This feature is hopefully a way to further honor each life and recognize those who have made a difference.

APRIL 2014

MEMORIALS

Mrs. Wadel Abide
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan
Mrs. Helen Adams
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Kenton Addison
Mr. & Mrs. Randy B. Eaves
Donna Kay (Sissy) Agnew
Mr. C. Pat Ramsay
Mrs. Helen Alexander
Calvary BC
Ruby Allred
Mr. & Mrs. Billy West
Mrs. Ann Andrews
Mr. & Mrs. Earl L. Harris, Jr.
Mrs. Peggy Atwood
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Mrs. Mary (Judy) Baggett
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Ernest L. Barlow
Mrs. Odelle T. Barlow
Mrs. Lillian Bass
Miss Lucy Mikell
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Tynes
Mrs. Melba Beech
Mr. & Mrs. Reese Douglas, Jr.
Jeff Bell
Mrs. Denise Farrar
Peggy Bigham
Pheba BC
Marlin D. Blanton
Mrs. Ethelene J. Blanton
Mrs. Helen Boatright
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Smothers
Rudolph Bonds
Bill & Loureta Moss West
Stan & Patty Moss
Phillip Moss
Mrs. Nita Bridges
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Grayson
Lorraine Bright
Mr. Homer F. Woodruff
Mr. Pete Brim
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Thompson

South BC
Paul Culpepper
Ms. Yvonne Culpepper
John Curlee
Ms. Marian R. Dickson
Jewel W. Daughdrill
The Sores
The Balls
Thomas (Mickey) Daughdrill
Mrs. Bonnie Daughdrill
Mr. Fred Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan
Mrs. April DeLoach
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Oakman
John D. Dillon
Siloam BC
Dr. Eugene & Betty Dobbs
Mrs. Modenna Young
Dr. Eugene Dobbs
Mr. John D. Berry, Jr.
Mr. Thomas A. Hargrove, Jr.
Mr. Tucker J. Freeman
The Comfort Family
The Bishop Family
The Dobbs Family
Mrs. Beulah Dodd
Cecil & Penny Washington
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Dean
Mr. Jerry Donald Jr.
Mrs. Lucille H. Harris
J. F. Douglas Jr.
Ms. Frances Abernethy
Ellen Ellis
Mrs. Nelda D. Hardage
Mr. Haywood Ellis
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Mrs. Teresa Thomason Ellis
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Smothers
Genevieve Parish
Mr. & Mrs. Glen E. King
Hewitt B. Ferguson
Mr. & Mrs. D. L. Melton
Tim V. Foley
Mr. Charles W. Holmes
Arlon (Pete) Fulton
Branch BC
Mrs. Myrtice Fulton
Betty Hatcher
Amy Hatcher
Rev. & Mrs. Allen Mapp
Winston Hayes
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Fulton
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Fulton
Betty Fulcher Long
Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Woodruff
Kathryn Sette
Tony Blankenship
Wynell Miles
Mr. & Mrs. James Hanna
Ron Woodruff
Bonnie Fulton
Caroline H. Pyke
Mr. Charles W. Hittmes
James Richard Garrett
Mr. & Mrs. Hembree Brandon
Clyde Michael (Mike) Gibson
Mr. Lonnie Sims
Dorothy Gilbert
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Voss
Mr. Douise Gordon
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Revette
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert T. Kendrick
Paul Edward "Eddy Bo" Guy
Mr. Thomas W. Brock
Willie J. (Bill) Halford
Mr. & Mrs. Ron K. Phillips
Nina Ruth Hall
Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Peoples
Bill Hamilton
Mr. & Mrs. Ron D. Craddock
Ms. Nellie Hancock
Rev. & Mrs. Higdon Herrington
Mr. G. R. Harden
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Dean
Mr. Herbert Hargett
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Dean
James Duane Henderson
Fellowship BC, Taylorsville
Mrs. Ollie Herrington
Rev. & Mrs. Jimmy Breland
Bruce Hicks
Ms. Betty J. Boatner & Family
Mrs. Ruth Hilderbrand

Mrs. Frankie H. Jenkins
Mr. James Hill
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Mr. James Holder
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Dean
Denise Holmes
Richard & Tony Rogers Families
Mrs. Nina Hubbard
Mr. Owen R. Warren
Mr. Bill Huff
Mrs. Carol P. Clay
Hulet Hughes
Mr. Lonnie Sims
Katherine Hughes
Mr. & Mrs. Bill West
Billie H. Humphreys
Mr. & Mrs. R. N. Humphreys
Janie Opal Irby
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Coward
Opal Irby
Branch BC
Mrs. Wilma Davis
Mrs. Frances T. Jacobs
Mr. & Mrs. Brooks H. Polk, Jr.
William (RD) Jarrell
Mr. Albert E. Garner
Ann Jeffcoat
Johnny & Wanda Bourn

Mrs. Mildred Jenkins
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Linda C. Johnson
Rev. & Mrs. R. L. Sigrest
Ruth V. Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. George H. Crawford, Jr.
Mrs. Christine Redd Johnston
Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Brumfield
Mr. James B. Johnston
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert T. Kendrick
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur D. Burnett
Mr. Cade Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Mr. Guy Wallace Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Lofton
Jimmie Mosley
John Everett
Mrs. Nita Bridges Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Wigington
Mr. Jim Keene
Ms. Betty R. Mosley
Justin (Tub) Kirkland
Amite County DHS Field
Operation Staff
M. E. "Sonny" & Margaret
Newton

Willing Workers SSC, Liberty
BC
Mrs. Beverly Lance
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Dean
Mark Lee
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Coward
Mr. Marvin Long
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan
Sarah Love
Eddiection BC
Bill Mann
Mr. & Mrs. Billy West
Lester Clyde Martin
Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Peoples
Fred Mathis
Mr. & Mrs. James A. Garrison
Mr. Fred Roberts
Mr. W. Harold Roberts
Dr. John McCall
Patty & Beth Sullender
Ms. Kathryn (Sis) McCarty
Jerusalem BC
James L. McDonald
Mark, Lance & Barbara Ball
Otis McGee
Hannah SSC, FBC McComb
Mother of Sandra McWhite
Mrs. Glenda C. Fry

BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Immediate Opening for Social Services Secretary (Ridgeland, MS)

The BCV has an immediate opening for an individual to fill the position of Social Services Secretary in the agency's headquarters in Ridgeland. The individual filling this position must be a mature Christian adult with personal integrity, Christian character and a sound reputation. This individual must also have a demonstrated commitment to the ethical standards incumbent upon each staff member of the BCV staff and an appreciation of the confidentiality extended to children and families served by the BCV. This individual must be able to deal with children and adults in a warm, accepting manner. The successful candidate must have a minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent, and training and experience in general secretarial tasks and be proficient in general office computing tasks, specifically word processing, spreadsheet applications and data entry in various applications. Other significant responsibilities include phone coverage, extensive filing and significant interactions with members of the social service and clinical staff.

To be considered for this position, you will need to complete the full employment application which includes a statement of faith and submit it along with a copy of your resume to Kristen Slaven, Director of Social Services at kslaven@baptistchildrensvillage.com or 114 Marketridge Drive, Ridgeland, MS 39157.

BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Immediate Openings for Case Managers (Statewide)

The BCV has immediate openings for individuals to fill the position of Case Manager on several of its campuses across the state. The individuals filling these positions must be mature, Christian adults, with personal integrity, Christian character and sound reputation. These individuals must have a demonstrated commitment to the ethical standards incumbent upon each staff member of the BCV staff and an appreciation of the confidentiality extended to children and families served by the BCV. Successful candidates for this position must have a demonstrated ability to cultivate adaptive relationships with both children and adults. These individuals must also have the ability to effectively communicate, through both written and spoken language, exhibit sound clinical judgment, tact and assertiveness, and be able to work effectively with residents, their families, referral sources and BCV staff. As this position requires a great deal of direct contact with residents and their families, successful candidates for this position must have a relatively flexible schedule and be able to work at those times when the residents are on campus or when their families may be available.

Individuals seeking this position must have a master's degree in a social or behavioral science field. An individual with a bachelor's degree in a social or behavioral science field and extensive case management experience in the field of residential or mental health care may be considered.

To be considered for this position, you will need to complete the full employment application which includes a statement of faith and submit it along with a copy of your resume to Dr. Randy Cotton, Director of Programs and Clinical Services at rcotton@baptistchildrensvillage.com or 114 Marketridge Drive, Ridgeland, MS 39157.

Radical Faith: Live to Win in the End • Daniel 7:7-18

Humans have five sources of knowledge in this world. We gain experiential knowledge from events in our lives. We touch something hot when we are young and learn that hot things burn us. We gain instructional knowledge from someone else who teaches us. Most of our education consists of someone with an education telling us: Observational knowledge comes from seeing what happens to other people. We are taught in the book of Proverbs to observe and to learn. We gain empirical knowledge from the scientific method, including observation in nature, experimentation, documentation, and disapproving the opposite.

Each of these avenues to knowledge has its limitations. We could live our entire lives and not experience the right events to teach us what we need to know. We are limited in instructional information by the knowledge of the teachers. Observational knowledge depends on timing and our willingness to see what is around us. And science itself has demonstrated through its history that the scientific method often leads to the wrong conclusions. In the early 20th century the Royal Society of Science in Great Britain actually considered disbanding because they thought they had learned all there was to learn. Scientists at

one time advocated bleeding people when they were sick.

The fifth source of knowledge is rejected by the majority of people on the planet, and yet it ultimately will be the only one that is accurate. The best source of information is revelation knowledge. The Creator of the universe has chosen to reveal Himself to us in general and specific ways. In creation He reveals Himself to everyone and specifically

God revealed Himself through his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. He also spoke specifically through the prophets and the writers of the Bible in preparation for and concerning the Lord Jesus. God revealed to the prophet Joel, "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions," (Joel 2:28 KJV).

God showed Daniel through a vision

in the seventh chapter of Daniel that His kingdom endures forever but human kingdoms rise and fall. Daniel's vision revealed that after the Babylonian Kingdom would come the Persian Kingdom, followed by the Greek Empire and then the Roman Empire. Each of these human kingdoms had a beginning and an end. Then Daniel saw God's kingdom. Daniel 7:13-14 reads, "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one

like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."

Though God's kingdom endures forever, often Christians suffer during the earthly kingdoms, as evidenced by those Chris-

tians currently being persecuted for their faith in Iraq and Iran. Daniel 7:21 reveals, "I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them," (KJV). The Scripture tells us that Daniel was troubled by this vision and by what it meant. Throughout time followers of the Lord were also troubled and wondered why they must suffer for the cause of Christ. The Scripture does not give us an answer to that question but it does reveal that God will ultimately win every conflict. Woodrow Wilson said, "I would rather fail in a cause that will ultimately triumph than to triumph in a cause that will ultimately fail."

God has chosen to selectively reveal to us His will. We are not privy, though, to all that God knows. Mark Twain once said, "It ain't those parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me, it is the parts that I do understand." We do not have all the answers to our questions, but we have more than enough in the revelation of God Almighty. Human kingdoms rise and fall, but the word of God, His revelation stands forever. The greatest earthly powers are at best temporary and limited, but God's throne is eternal and He reigns forever.

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon.



Explore the Bible with Rick Henson

God's Work of Creation • Psalm 104:1-5, 24-30

"In the beginning... God... created... night and day, sky and sea, land and vegetation, stars, sun and moon, sea creatures, fish and birds, animals and mankind (Gen. 1:2-4a). And it was good!" The Old Testament is consistent in its use of the verb "create" (*bara*). Only God serves as subject of the verb. Creation is the work of God. People may "make" (*asah*) and "form" (*yatsar*) (Holman Bible Dictionary, ©1991). The references to the Creator or creation are found frequently throughout the Bible: (see Psalms 90-106; Isaiah 40:28; 43:7, 15; 45:7; 65:17; John 1:3; Ephesians 3:9; Acts 14:15; and Rev. 4:11). Our lesson comes from Psalm 104, which someone has said is a poet's version of Genesis in a very personal nature. It refers to the six days of creation as well as the complete cosmos. Also note how the writer refers to "God in second person and third person, suggesting it is both a song of praise directed toward God and a hymn of exhortation directed toward fellow worshippers. The psalm enthusiastically acknowledges God as Creator and Sustainer of the world (Lifeway).

Psalm 104 opens with the final words of Psalm 103, "Bless the Lord, O my soul." This sets the tone for the theme of the poem found in the first two verses of Psalm 104, which is the greatness of God as Cre-

ator, meaning God is greater than His creation. We are not to worship creation, but the Creator (Ex. 20:3, 4; Rom. 1:29). God displays His love for mankind through His work of creation: "He is the one who lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters; makes the clouds His chariot; He walks upon the wings of the wind and He makes the wind His messengers (vv. 3-4)." It is God's power which established the

earth upon its foundations... that it will not totter forever and ever (vs. 5). God asked Job, "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding (Job 38:4)." Continue to read through verses 6 through 23, notice the beautiful descriptive poetic language describing how He harnesses the water, provides food and homes for His creation. There is an orderly pattern for all of creation.

"O LORD, how many are Your works! In

wisdom You have made them all; The earth is full of Your possessions" (v. 24). God created everything by His wisdom—one of His attributes. The prophet Jeremiah wrote, "It is He who made the earth by His power, Who established the world by His wisdom; and by His understanding He has stretched out the heavens (10:12 NASB)." Then the Psalmist gives us a description of the living creatures (fifth day of creation)

including huge creatures of the sea. These were made by God, under His control and will. A good example of this is found in

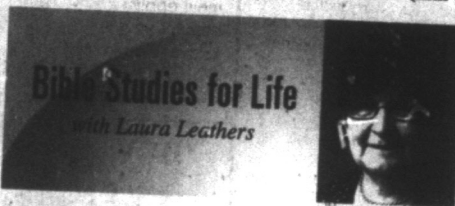
Jonah 1:17; "The LORD appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah."

Our final point, God sustains His creation out of His love (vs. 27-30). In Matthew 6:19-34 Jesus says, "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, not reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth more than they?" From this passage

there are other references to creation. All of creation waits—looking with expectation—upon God for His providential care: opening His hand means providing and closing of His hand means famine. Everything is given to us because of His great love and grace. In verse 30, the Psalmist states: "You take away their spirit, they expire and return to their dust." Now read Matt. 10:29, it is God who controls everything, even the smallest seemingly insignificant of a sparrow dying or the number of hairs on our heads. Everything attests to the sovereignty of God. In the book, *God's Plans for You*, J. I. Packer writes, "God made life, and God alone can tell us its meaning."

In the final five verses, the Psalmist bows his head in worship and a benediction. Notice the phrases, "Let the glory of the LORD endure forever; Let the LORD be glad in His works;... I will sing to the LORD as long as I live"... "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. He has done great things, He has done great things, He has done great things; bless His holy name." (Text and music by Andrae Crouch©1973). Praise the LORD!

Leathers is a member of First Church, Madison.



Bible Studies for Life with Laura Leathers

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Double Springs, Mabon:** Revival, Aug. 24 - 27; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Paul Blanchard, speaker; Charles McClelland, worship leader.

► **Trinity Church, Petal:** 50th anniversary, Aug. 24; dedication service, 2 p.m., with reception to follow. Bobby Holder, pastor.

► **Richburg Church, Hattiesburg:** Revival, Aug. 24 - 27; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Rick Stanley, speaker; Michael Jernigan, music; Paul A. Roney, pastor.

► **High Hill Church, Neshoba County:** Revival, Aug. 24 - 27; John Sharp, James Clark, Jason Jones, Dale Rogers, and Shane McGivney, speakers; Steve and Becky Carver, music; Don Cook, pastor; Mike Barker, music director.

► **Cedar Grove Church,**

Lena: Revival, Aug. 24 - 27; Sun., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Larry Jordan, speaker.

► **McCaney Church, Carroll County:** Revival, Aug. 24 - 27; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; David Haggerty, speaker; W. Elmo Mercer, music; Rupert Ingram, pastor.

► **Center Church, Blue Springs:** Revival, Aug. 24 - 27; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed.,

7 p.m.; Jimmy Russell, speaker; Wayne Barkley, music.

► **Beulah Church, Lexington:** Revival, Aug. 24 - 27; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Chas Rowland, speaker.

► **Moak's Creek Church, Summit:** 144th homecoming, Aug. 24; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon singing; Kern Wickware, speaker; Danny Creel, music.

► **Euclatubba Church, Lee**

County Association: Homecoming, Aug. 24; special music, 10 a.m.; worship, 10:55 a.m., followed by lunch; Tommy Tackett, speaker; testimony by Amanda Parker; Southern Image Quartet, music; Scott Witcher, pastor.

► **Bethel Church, Hazlehurst:** Homecoming, Aug. 24; services, 10 and 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Keith Smith, speaker; Brenda Nixon, music; Tyson Windom, pastor.

Just for the Record



RED CREEK CHURCH, VESTRY, held a baby dedication. Shown are Andrew and Jennifer Havens with daughter Raylie; pastor Jamie Chapman, Kristen Davis with daughter Lochlyn and associate pastor Elijah Davis, father.



GILLSBURG CHURCH, GILLSBURG, librarians promoted a successful summer reading program that ended with a train ride from McComb to Hammond, La., for fifty children and chaperones.



The ladies' ministry of **FAIR RIVER CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN**, recently attended a LifeWay/Beth Moore conference in Biloxi. Shown are some of the participants. Jay Anderson, pastor.



The youth of **CALVARY CHURCH, VICKSBURG**, finished their D-Now weekend by hosting a Black & White banquet honoring Calvary's widows and senior adults.

In other Church News:

► **Salem Heights Church, Jones County**, is hosting a Bible conference. Sun., Aug. 24 - 10:15 a.m., Jim Shaddix; 6 p.m., Jim Shaddix; 7 p.m., John Sullivan. Mon., Aug. 25 - noon, John Sullivan; 6:30 p.m., Steven Smith; Tues., Aug. 26 - noon, John Sullivan; 6:30 p.m., Robert Smith. Lunch provided during midday services; children's services during evening sessions; local choirs, music.

► **Riverside Church, Monroeville**, is hosting New Day in concert Aug. 24; finger foods, 4 p.m.; singing, 5 p.m.

► **Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle**, is hosting its fifth annual Faith In Action Sunday Aug. 31. Members meet in work clothes at 8:30 a.m. and perform such duties as delivering home cooked meals to shut-ins, delivering socks and food to nursing home residents, pick up roadside trash, passing out light bulbs, smoke detectors and performing small repairs to needy families' homes, and cutting grass and doing odd jobs at Moselle Elementary School. Keith Thompson, pastor.

► **Providence Church Itawamba County**, held a youth rally July 26. Several community church youth participated in games with a local band and a local speaker.

► The Martha Ministry of **First Church, Water Valley**, sends care packages to those in the community to serve a range of needs. Twenty-eight ladies have delivered 795 packages during the last 18 months, including special meals, supplies for inmates in the county jail, goody baskets for hospital patient, items for parents of newborns, or a basket for newcomers to town. The ministry hosted a booth at the Watermelon Carnival Aug. 1 - 2. Janice Joyner founded the ministry in January, 2013.



The GA's of **BRANCH CHURCH, MORTON**, attended Gayrwa Camp and Conference Center this summer. Shown are Haleigh Herrington, Katelynn Huff, Vaden Latham, and Staci Herrington.



More than 40 students from **NORTH MORTON CHURCH, SCOTT COUNTY ASSOCIATION**, attended a Back to School Back Pack Bash Aug. 3. Students were given school supplies, a Bible, and a prayer card to be used during the year. A fellowship lunch was provided after worship. Gary Wyatt, pastor.



CENTER HILL CHURCH, HAMILTON, Young at Heart hosted Emma Ausborn during their August meeting. Ausborn gave a talk on quilt making and displayed several of her own quilts.



Youth from **CALVARY CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO**, attended Youth Night at the Coliseum, Jackson. Jason and Jennie Leggett, youth ministers; Hal Hatten, pastor.